192. M/s. Singjanei Chanam, Imphal

193. M/s. Promodini Video, Imphal

194. M/s. C.P. Vision, Imphal

195. M/s. N.T. Films, Imphal

196. M/s. Bou Productions, Imphal

197. M/s. Anjana Cine Art Productions, Imphal

198. M/s. The 'X' Cine, Imphal

199. M/s. Effective Television, Imphal

200. M/s. New Vista, Imphal

201. Mr. Aribam Syam Sharma, Imphal

202. M/s. Maraland Film Producing & Cultural Dev. Society (P) Ltd., Siaha

203. M/s. Zoram Media Centre, Aizawl

204. M/s. Micon, Aizawl

205. Ms. Angela Pachau, Aizawl

206. M/s. LPS Vision Production, Aizawl

207. M/s. Slipstream Films, Aizawl

208. M/s. Digbijoi Production, Ghy

Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

1303. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, both criminal and civil, pending in the Supreme Court and in different High Courts, separately;

(b) the rate of disposal of cases;

(c) the number of cases lying pending for a period of more than three years; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for speedy disposal of both criminal and civil cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) As far as the Supreme Court is concerned, the Department of Justice does not maintain the periodical data as done in the case of High Courts. However, the available information in respect of the Supreme Court and the information regarding High Courts is enclosed as Statement (*See* below):

(d) Supreme Court has reduced its pendency from 1,04,936 as on 31.12.91 to 23,012 as on 31.5.2002 primarily through better use of Information Technology, bunching of similar cases etc. The computer network of the Supreme Court is being upgraded to further improve its efficiency and speed of disposal.

The Minister of Law and Justice has been requesting Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

Various measures have been adopted by the High Courts for expeditious disposal of cases including classification and grouping of cases, computerization of records in High Courts, identification and listing of cases covered by the decisions finally made by the Supreme Court and High Court on the same point.

Government have been compiling Annual Analysis reports on pendency of cases, both criminal and civil, in High Courts and District Courts and forwarding them to the High Courts for their information and necessary action. High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, *inter-alia*, expedite disposal of pending cases. Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides reviewing and increasing judge strength of High Courts every three years, Government have set up/encouraged alternative modes of dispute resolution including conciliation, emdiation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal , Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc., have been set up to expedite the disposal of cases. Information technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the litigants/ advocates etc., for speedy disposal of cases. A Pilot project has been started for Networking and Computerisation of City Courts in the four major metrocities

of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai to serve as a model.

This year the Department of Justice is initiating as pilot project of upgrading the computer network of the four metropolitan High Courts of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to the level of the Supreme Court so as to bring about the same speed and efficiency in disposal of cases in these High Courts as exists in the Supreme Court.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.07.2002 which, *inter-alia,* limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorise the court to fix time limit for oral arguments & provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases.

Statement

Number of cases, both criminal and civil, pending in the Supreme court and in Different High Courts, Separately

Sl No.		Pendency of cases		As on	Rate of disposal of cases per judge	Pendency of cases for more than 3 years
		Criminal	Civil			
	Supreme Court	3674	16590	1/4/2000	N.A.	N.A.*

(*) However, as on 15th April, 2002, there were 1633 cases and 788 criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court for more than five years.

High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Pendency of cases		As on	Rate of disposal of cases per judge (1996-2000)	Pendency of cases for more than 3 years
		Criminal	Civil			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Allahabad	149587	760054	31/3/2002	2167.54	679957
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10863	152649	31/3/2002	2154.6	68240

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Bombay	27936	265344	30/9/2001	1580.9	137215
4.	Calcutta	36433	190697	31/3/2002	1445.5	180074
5.	Delhi	17718	73414	31/12/2000	1230.0	64741
6.	Gauhati	5629	39413	31/12/2000	1008.1	8271
7.	Gujarat	19526	120041	31/12/2000	1000.1	64951
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4037	13910	31/3/2002	910.6	4321
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1740	31625	31/3/2002	1682.7	7092
10.	Karnataka	7417	87819	31/3/2002	2756.7	21516
11.	Kerala	17107	393972	31/3/2002	2516.6	202130
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46121	84530	31/3/2002	1738.4	61689
13.	Madras	33258	314562	31/12/2001	2398.1	82984
14.	Orissa	10598	137168	31/3/2002	1559.9	60895
15.	Patna	17297	63942	31/3/2002	2214.7	20575
16.	Punjab & Haryana	44487	188288	31/3/2002	2246.3	153268
17.	Rajasthan	27718	110406	31/12/2001	1320.8	59294
18.	Sikkim	20	102	31/3/2002	162.0	16
19.	Uttaranchal	5365	25479	31/8/2002	NA	14074
20.	Jharkhand	NA	NA		NA	NA
21.	Chhattisgarh	NA	NA		NA	NA
	Total:	482693	305	3415		

Pending cases in High Courts

†1304. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified ten High Courts in the country having maximum number of pending cases;

(b) if so, the High Courts where maximum number of cases were pending for decision during March, 2002; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.